

table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6524) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VESSEL HULL DESIGN PROTECTION AMENDMENTS OF 2008

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 931, H.R. 6531.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6531) to amend chapter 13 of title 17, United States Code (relating to the vessel hull design protection), to clarify the definitions of a hull and a deck.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate today will pass the Vessel Hull Design Protection Act Amendments of 2008. The Senate unanimously passed a similar bill last year. This is a small, but important, piece of legislation and has bipartisan support. This updated version was introduced to address concerns of the Navy, and gives the Department of Defense full assurance that Government and defense designs will not be subject to unwarranted restrictions. I thank the cosponsors of the Senate's bill—Senator CORNYN, Senator KOHL, and Senator WHITEHOUSE—for all their hard work and contributions.

In 1998, Congress passed the Vessel Hull Design Protection Act to recognize the significant time, effort, and innovation that figure into ship design. Recent action in the courts has made it clear that in order to be effective, this law needs to be clarified and refined. This bill does exactly that, and no more, by clarifying the definition of "hull" and "deck." This ensures that the intellectual property rights of vessel hull designers will be protected.

I am pleased the Senate will adopt this measure today, and I look forward to the President signing it into law.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6531) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

WEBCASTER SETTLEMENT ACT OF 2008

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7084, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7084) to amend section 114 of title 17, United States Code, to provide for agreements for the reproduction and performance of sound recordings by webcasters.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has passed the Webcaster Settlement Act of 2008, a short but important bill for all of us who love to listen to music online. I have long championed the development of new business models for transmitting music to the public, and I have been delighted to see the webcasting community grow and prosper. From tiny operations serving the smallest of musical niches, to collegiate stations playing cutting edge performers, to large established webcasters providing a whole new array of services to listeners, the online music world has truly blossomed in the last 10 years. But with all new growth comes growing pains, and we also must be constantly vigilant to ensure that the development of new business interests does not come at the expense of settled property rights.

When webcasting was even younger, I sponsored the Small Webcasters Settlement Act of 2004, which established a Copyright Royalty Tribunal to replace the old Copyright Arbitration Royalty Panel as the administrative body for determining—in the absence of privately negotiated contracts—the royalty rates to be paid by online music providers to the performers who hold the copyrights in that music. The new system has seen its first adjudications, and this legislation reflects the need for a slight readjustment in that system. The bill simply extends the time to next February during which the parties can negotiate their own rates, even after the CRB proceeding, and will permit any deal that is negotiated by that time to bind the interested parties.

I am not, in the normal course, a proponent of legislative readjustments like this one, but I understand the advisability of this particular extension. I will not, however, sanction repeated returns to Congress if webcasters are again dissatisfied with the results of a system that they urged upon us in 2004, and which they applauded when it was created. The parties on both sides of these agreements—the webcasters and the copyright owners—would be well advised to consider these negotiations seriously, and to behave appropriately. The rights of our creative artists are the life blood of the entire music industry, including that of the online music providers, and we all owe them respect.

I trust the parties when they tell us that the time extension will allow them to come to terms that will ensure mutual benefit to them, and ultimate benefit to all the listeners, like myself, who enjoy music transmitted over the Internet. I am pleased the Congress has passed this measure before recessing.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be

read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 7084) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 99-498, as amended by Public Law 110-315, appoints the following individual to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance: Norman Bedford of Nevada.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Minority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 110-183, announces the appointment of the following individual as a member of the Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Rainier Spencer of Nevada.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2008

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 963, S. 3197.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3197) to amend title 11, United States Code, to exempt for a limited period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 3197

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008".